

# SOUTH BEND NEWS-TIMES

THE NEWS-TIMES PRINTING CO., PUBLISHERS.

210 WEST COLFAX AV.

Entered as second class matter at the Postoffice at South Bend, Indiana

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Daily and Sunday in advance, in city, \$5.00  
Daily and Sunday in advance, by mail, \$6.00  
Daily, single copy, 12c  
Sunday, single copy, 10c

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SOUTH BEND, INDIANA, MAY 19, 1915.

## INTERNATIONAL LAW AND SUBMARINE BLOCKADES.

One nation alone can no more establish international law than one nation alone can abolish international law. It is the joint creation of all nations and the general heritage of civilization.

It represents, in international relations, what the "common law" represents to citizens in their domestic affairs.

Our common law, inherited largely from England, has been built up by the immemorial usage of the race. It typifies the racial sense of social order. It is an expression of the racial life. Much of it has been written into the statutes, but all of it has been established by judicial decisions over and over again; but if every law book in England and America was destroyed, that body of common law, of rules for the proper behavior of American citizens toward each other, would still exist. It is an intangible thing—as intangible as religion and morality, and just as definite and permanent. It is an inseparable part of our national culture, existing in the hearts and consciousness of individuals and upheld by the tacit consent of the great, ruling majority of honest men.

International law, likewise, would exist if every lawbook on the subject were burned, if every Hague convention were repudiated by some of the signatories, if every treaty were torn up by angry diplomats—so long as a majority of mankind refused to sanction such anarchy and upheld the old land marks of law and decency.

The great fallacy of the position occupied at present by Germany among the powers is her assumption that she herself can annul old international laws and make new ones, by the mere fiat of her kaiser or imperial council.

To get down to cases: It has always been agreed among nations in modern times that a blockade of an enemy's ports is not valid, and can claim no recognition, unless it is "effective." Yet Germany insists that her submarine blockade of Great Britain be recognized as such, when more than 99 per cent of British commerce slips past unharmed.

Such slight effectiveness as Germany has given her attempted blockade has been due to a campaign of terror rather than to measures recognized by other nations as legitimate. Germany has threatened to break the laws of all nations unless her blockade was recognized, and she has done so.

Because the British fleet is more powerful than hers, and she has therefore been able to use nothing but submarines in her naval warfare, and those only against merchant vessels, not warships, she has assumed to change the rules to suit her own plight. She has declared a new international law, based on the exigencies of submarine warfare.

Thus, a rule of war universally recognized by civilized nations has been that in attacking an unarmed merchant vessel belonging to the enemy, the attacking belligerent must board the ship before sinking it, give official notice and take proper measures to save the lives of noncombatants aboard, especially the lives of neutral citizens or subjects. But it is hard and hazardous for a submarine crew always to carry out this rule. Therefore, says Germany, the rule is abolished—she has a right to sink any merchantman without trying to save those on board, even without giving them any warning whatever. And if neutrals go down with the torpedoed ship, that is their lookout, she argues—they "shouldn't have been on board"—though it is the immemorial right of neutrals to travel on the unarmed vessels of belligerents.

The opinion of the majority of belligerent nations in this war, and the universal opinion of neutral nations—which is to say, the sentiment of the vast majority of mankind which gives international law its form and sanction—holds that in the case of a ship like the Lusitania, the Germans had a perfect right to capture her as a prize of war. They had a perfect right, in case of danger to themselves, to sink her. But they had no right whatever to sink her without giving those on board, unarmed enemies and particularly unarmed neutrals, every opportunity to escape.

"But to give them due warning," objects Germany, "would have given them time to escape with the ship, or to bring armed warships to attack us." There is just the point. Germany, pleading "military necessity," assumed to abolish the rules because the rules were not suited to the only form of naval warfare that she is able to wage. The simple answer is that there were submarines before this war started, that the limitations of submarines have been recognized by every nation, and neither in any international conference nor during the present war has any power except Germany (and her allies, tried to change the rules to suit the convenience of the submarines).

As Sen. John Sharp Williams says, when submarines admittedly cannot comply with international obligations, "the answer is that submarines should not be used to sink merchant ships."

## TWO MILKMEN WITH A SINGLE TYPEWRITER.

The old love song—"Two minds with but a single thought; two hearts that beat as one,"—has found its sequel under the spy-glass of our office Sherlock Holmes, within the past day or two, through two letters defending Health Officer Rosenbury's milk ordinance. The letters written on the same quality of paper, with the same typewriter, as Mr. Holmes makes out, though over different signatures, very naturally affords us occasion to pause. We would, indeed, dislike to be confronted by such an outburst of criticism, separated in source, and free from connivance or understanding. Of course, we give the correspondence publicity. We always do that when it keeps within reasonable bounds, but we beg our readers to understand that the letter from the South Bend Sanitary Milk company, Monday, and the one from Harry Millman, today, bear all the earmarks of a mutual composition. However, this is only secondary.

To meet Mr. Millman half way, if he will effect, through Dr. Rosenbury and the council, a slight amendment to the ordinance as now submitted, and then assure us of a rule of reason in the certifications of the St. Joseph County Medical society, we will lend him our little comfort.

We will admit of all the terms of the ordinance except section 19, which after the other sections have outlined certain requirements as to the cleanliness of cows, barn-yards, milk storage, cans, bottles, etc., and coolness up to the time of delivery, requires that the milk be "clarified and pasteurized or certified." We will even admit of the terms of this section, if it will be made to read that all milk shall be "clarified and certified," before being offered for sale for human consumption, "whether raw or pasteurized." It accepts no responsibility, however, for the opinions here put forth. Correspondents must show good faith, however, by signing their communications with their correct name. This will not be published if the correspondent so desires, and indicates, but the name MUST accompany the communication or it cannot be considered.

The damage to British owned oil wells in and about Tampico, Mex., is said to be so great as to seriously threaten the oil supply of the English navy.

To a republican party emissary seeking peace, Roosevelt said, "You have me." Queer, if the republican party has got to fight to keep Teddy out.

In other words there is reliable backing for the opinion that the raw milk delivered to the consumer under the conditions required of the dairyman by the ordinance, up to the time that he would deliver it to the pasteurizing plant, is better for the general health than it would be after pasteurization. Certification merely goes to prove that those conditions have been lived up to, and pasteurization is no safe substitute for certification. It merely affords the dairyman a poor excuse for slighting the requirements made upon him as to cleanliness and cooling on the theory that clarification and pasteurization take the place of it—and that is the experience, at least in a great many places, where pasteurization has been given this opportunity.

And what is the need of all this cleanliness program if pasteurization will accomplish all that is claimed for it? When the ordinance says milk must, in addition to this cleanliness and coolness, be "clarified and pasteurized or certified," there can be but one construction and that of pasteurization serving as a substitute for certification, hence virtually casting the cleanliness and coolness program to the winds. We speak for people who prefer raw milk. Perhaps they are "old fogies," and maybe so are we, but remember, dear ones, that "old fogies" at least have the distinction of having grown "dry behind the ears." We are less interested in pasteurized milk than we are in raw milk, or in any program of monopolization that leans toward an excuse for another cent a quart—because of the expense involved in providing a larger market for the manufacturers of the pasteurizing plants.

Such is the almost invariable sequel; it is the argument of the manufacturers' salesmen, that pasteurization tends to wipe out the independent dairymen, and centralize the milk market, after which the manipulation of milk prices becomes an easy matter.

## PULVERIZE THE PLOTTERS!

That Uncle Sam is watching Huerta and his co-plotters with an hawk-like eye is evidenced by the arrest, by the military authorities at El Paso, of nine prominent Mexicans, followers of Orozco and supporters of the Huerta administration. That is right and proper.

The United States has a too serious affair on its hands now to permit a new revolution in our neighboring republic to be launched in this country. Just now both sides seem to be evenly matched and content to pattern after President Wilson's policy of watchful waiting.

A state of quasi-peace exists in many parts of Mexico. Some soil is being tilled and crops put by. The people are beginning to have a taste of comparative tranquility in several sections, and it is to be hoped the habit will grow upon them, and that the

war may wear itself out. The masses are sick of strife and with a little encouragement would get together for a real peace.

That encouragement on our part must take the form of putting a summary stop to efforts to foster a new revolution, which would mean another era of rape and rapine in unhappy Mexico.

Greedy interests over here are, of course, backing Huerta. Newspapers of so-called prominence are openly advocating his cause; some are closely verging on sedition in their brazen effrontery. The same dirty dollars are at work that have plunged Mexico into other bloody revolutions, to its sorrow and America's shame.

Put your heel on it, Uncle Sam! Put the plotters all behind the bars be they Mexican refugees or American citizens. It's no time for plots.

Hey there! Hey there! The side show is still going on. The most ferocious man eating hand, in or out of captivity, Pancho Villa, is now preparing to eat alive thirty-five thousand Mexicans, boots, spurs and all, at Iraguato. Count 'em—thirty-five thousand! When you get tired looking at the blood curdling feasts in the main tent, take a peep at the side show once more.

"Did Col. Roosevelt charge up San Juan hill, or did he not?" asks Old Time Subscriber. We forget; maybe, and maybe not. And maybe the boy stood on the burning deck whence all but him had fled, simply because he couldn't swim. Some details of history get away from us, bright as we are.

We have heard about people getting skinned in Texas, but now a new record is established in skinning. A tornado in Jones county, so the Austin Statesman says, peeled the jackets from seven jack-rabbits and left them still a running.

A witness in that libel suit swears that, less than a year ago, Roosevelt said he would go after President Wilson "and tear him to pieces," oratorically speaking. Chewing on a good solid substance is good for gum-balls.

The mayoress of Warren, Ill., has stated her intention of importing a Georgia man to be city marshal. The lady mayor is fixing to make herself solid with the suffragets, evidently.

Switzerland has mobilized her army. In the present state of our nerves, we are wondering if she can have any submarines ready to sting us in an exposed place.

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## Letters of the People

The News-Times opens this column to its readers for expressions of their views. It accepts no responsibility, however, for the opinions here put forth. Correspondents must show good faith, however, by signing their communications with their correct name. This will not be published if the correspondent so desires, and indicates, but the name MUST accompany the communication or it cannot be considered.

## MORE MILK TALK.

Editor News-Times: I am greatly surprised at the attitude of your paper on the milk question. I have recently located here and have observed the discussions and contentions regarding pasteurization in our council meetings. Having also observed the same fight in Chicago only a couple of years ago, where all competent authorities were quoted and enlisted, it seems to me that The News-Times ought to lend its best aid and to the newly proposed ordinance, without regard to what the politics of the present health board may be.

From the days of Pasteur to the period when Nathan Strauss provided free pasteurized milk for New York's east side babies there was some question of the value of the process of pasteurization. The great number of lives saved by Mr. Strauss' efforts with the aid of pasteurized milk removed forever any doubt as to the efficacy of the plan. Since then the sole cause for delay in adopting pasteurization universally, has been the cost and this is now so reduced that I am reliably informed many Chicago dealers put in outfits at a total expense of \$150, meeting every requirement of a very particular board of health.

Surely this small sum ought not stand between a sick baby and a chance for life and just as surely a great paper like The News-Times should, in my opinion, join the board of health in its efforts to secure the adoption of so important a measure. Yours truly,

HARRY MILLMAN,  
1812 S. Michigan St.

## TWENTY YEARS AGO

Reminders From the Columns of The Daily Times.

Real estate for the month to date \$94,658.32.

The Oden Epworth league of Grace M. E. church gave a social and literary evening at the home of the Misses Rose, Daisy and Mary Ram.

A. M. Russell was in Laporte yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam R. Pace have returned from a visit to Bowling Green, Ky.

# THE MELTING POT

COME! TAKE POTLUCK WITH US.

And still one measly little submarine can make a fleet of great battleships look like a pile of scrap.

## IF WE HAD A MOTOR CAR.

If we had a motor car, We'd keep it clean and bright; We'd dust it every morning; And wash it every night; These is, we think we would; But we dunno.

If we had a motor car We'd take a pride in it, To keep it looking shiny and scrumptious-like and fit. That is we think we would, But we dunno.

The trouble, we suppose, is this: There's always a place to go, And so little time to get there; That you cannot run her slow; That is, we think there is, But we dunno.

WE are among the few remaining ineligible to the Motor club and can only hope to be associated with that large contingent which outside of business hours devotes its time and mental activities to the use and discussion of automobile parts, assembled and otherwise. Still, like the unmolested turtle, we have our periscope out, and no telling what may happen.

EVER and anon while observing the transit of the movies we are actuated to wonder why to exemplify the nobler qualities of mankind the baser must be accented. What the world needs more than international peace is a scenario artist who can and will depict the good and the beautiful in human nature without giving the bad the center of the screen.

## Some Court Rulings.

It is ground for a new trial that the jury in a murder case upon retiring went to a hotel, got drunk, and in going up to their room in the hotel sang, "We are climbing up the golden stairs."—State v. Demarest, 41 La.

THE M. P. is an odd place for bouquets, but, in the hope that the recipients will descend to read this much of the contents of the Pot we make room for D. S. M., who says: Ed. M. P.—Please say to Miss Elinor Wolf my compliments. Her interview with Madame Schumann-Heink is a masterpiece. And, by the same token, so was the editorial on the subject in the same issue of the paper. D. S. M.

## SIGNS OF PROSPERITY

Statements issued by the banks and trust companies of Greater Kansas City yesterday under the call for May 1 by the comptroller of the currency, reflect the improvement in the business situation all commercial agencies have been reporting for the last two months.

On March 4 last, the date of the previous statements, deposits in local financial institutions were the heaviest ever known. At this time there is a decrease in deposits in national banks of about \$6,000,000. This decrease, of course, has dragged cash and sight exchange and total resources to lower totals, but the loan account is heavier than two months ago. This is another evidence of the better business conditions. The country not only withdrew much of the money it had on deposit, but borrowed freely in addition.

The drop in the amounts on deposit here was due mostly to withdrawals by country banks in order to be able to supply the demand for money in their own territory. Deposits, however, are still the highest in the history of the local financial center with the single exception of two months ago. Further decreases may be expected as crop moving time draws near.

The high record of March 4 last, was due to the heavy sales of live stock and grain crops all of which sold at almost record prices, and to the fact no funds were wanted for carrying on new business. Today the farmers are heavy buyers of young cattle for feeding purposes, and as farming operations are being planned on a larger scale than ever before, liberal financing is necessary. Implement dealers are doing a heavy business and country merchants generally are laying in large stocks. All this takes money, especially at a time when everything is selling at high prices.—Post, Kansas City, May 5, 1915.

Business conditions throughout the country and in New England are looking brighter for all and for the New Haven railroad with the rest of the business and little business, according to the belief expressed yesterday afternoon by Howard Elliott, president of the railroad, speaking at the 50th anniversary banquet of Providence division of Locomotive Engineers in the new auditorium of the Elks' building on Washington st.

Reviewing the business situation of the last nine months, Mr. Elliott said that in that time the gross earnings of the railroad had decreased some \$2,623,000 which had been offset by the company through practiced economy by a saving of \$2,638,000. He called for the cooperation and support of the employees of the road that the New Haven might climb once more back to a strong financial position and become the great factor in the economic prosperity of New England.—News, Providence, R. I., May 3, 1915.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat: The balance of trade for the first nine months of the fiscal year, July 1, 1914, to April 1, 1915, reaches the enormous total of \$719,803,909. That is to say, we have sold to foreign countries in that period nearly three-quarters of a billion more than we have bought from them. That vast sum has been placed to our credit and much of it is now circulating through the commercial veins of the country, putting new life into business, starting the wheels to turning and giving fresh courage to trade in every line.

Although the greater portion of this unprecedented export business, totalling approximately two and a half billion dollars, is due to the war, we may console ourselves with the thought that arms and ammunition form comparatively a small part

"WHAT I like about the M. P.," writes an enthusiastic and discriminating reader, "is the occasion for so little effort on your own part. The contributions and clippings are frequently, I may say, worth the trouble of reading."

THE gentle slam reminds us of what a West Virginia paper said of the concert: "The Morrell sisters played a duet and Charles Herbarly played several selections on the graphophone. The remainder of the evening was very pleasant."

THE next thing we know there will be a jitney bus with a sign like this: "South Bend and Longcliff, 5 cents." L. B.

The Oyster family resides in Ohio. And this, please believe, is no jester; There are three of the boys in the family now. They are Cecil, Orville and Lester.

## Prolonging the Spooning Days.

(Dacatur Democrat.) During the evening a delicious supper was served and the company presented the couple with a handsome rocking chair.

PUSHING the Teutons back, to use a trite press expression, is much like keeping the crowd off the cinder path at a footrace.

WHAT do we care for the expense of firing a presidential salute? Better burn our powder than way than in spreading death and desolation over the face of the earth.

## Do You Get Him?

Sir: If the attempt to rehabilitate old Bill Taft with political graces, made by himself and others in his behalf, is intended to groom him to be the republican candidate in the next presidential race, go to it, say I. T. R. has put himself outside the pale by calling a spade a spade; Taft's the man for my money. D.

TRUE to its name the base hit remains the fundamental principle of baseball success.

## The Supreme Test of Advertising.

(Want Ad.) PARTNER wanted. If I can get an honest partner to join me in my real estate business I will take a good man if honest. One who could take care of office.

IF Diogenes should see that ad. it would be to laugh.

HIS candle burned to the socket without results. C. N. F.

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